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CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

July 10, 1980

No. 7

Supplemental Appropriation - FY 1980

With final action by the Congress on supplemental budget requests, the FY 1980 appropriation process is now complete. The Congress approved an additional \$2.9 million to cover part of the increased salary costs resulting from the pay raise SEA employees received last October. In addition, the SEA-Extension urban gardening program was restored to the \$3.0 million level, the same level as in FY 79. However, the Congress withdrew \$2.5 million that had been earmarked for CR special research grants and \$.5 million earmarked for CR competitive grants from the \$16 million initial appropriation.

FY 1982 Budget Activity

I have been meeting monthly with the administrators and staff of other USDA agencies that have science and education functions (Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service; the Forest Service; the Soil Conservation Service; and the Office of International Cooperation and Development) to discuss programs and issues of mutual interest. In recent weeks we have given attention to FY 1982 budget matters.

The administrators and I will present an overview of areas of joint interest in our budget requests to the Secretary in late July. The individual agencies, of course, will also present their own budget requests as in the past. Ernie Corley, Ira Branson, Paul O'Connell, Larry Summers and Sheila Gillette, SEA-JPE, are working on overview and issue papers along with representatives from ESCS, FS, SCS and OICD.

Setting Priorities for FY 83

More than 40 professional societies were asked to provide SEA with recommendations for priorities in research, extension and higher education in the FY 1982 budget development cycle. Last January, we sponsored a conference on Priorities for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Higher Education. The conference provided an opportunity to review and discuss the lists of priorities submitted by the groups, clarify areas of overlap or gaps in program coverage, and examine the balance of priorities across disciplines. We hope to be able to expand the list of organizations contributing recommendations for the FY 1983 budget cycle and intend to allow the groups more time to develop their responses by advancing the date when they are first contacted. Anyone wishing to propose the addition of an organization to the current list can do so via James Hall, Room 26, Bldg. 005, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, West, Beltsville, MD 20705, Tel. (301) 344-4084. The current list of organizations and the 1980 conference proceedings on priorities are also available from Mr. Hall.

Personnel Notes

Jane Coulter has been named Deputy Assistant Director for Higher Education in the Science and Education Administration. She will also serve as Acting Assistant Director until a replacement is named for Homer Folks. Dr. Coulter earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in home economics education from Texas Tech University and a Ph.D. in general education from the same institution. Prior to coming to Washington under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA), she was associate dean and associate professor of family management, housing, and consumer science at Texas Tech.

Paul A. Putnam has been named Director of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. Dr. Putnam has been Assistant Director of the Beltsville Center since 1972. From 1957 to 1972, he served successively as a research scientist, Investigations Leader, and Chief of the Beef Cattle Research Branch, Animal Science Research Division. He received his B.S. degree from the University of Vermont in 1952, an M.S. degree in dairy science from Washington State University in 1954, and a Ph.D. in animal nutrition from Cornell University in 1957.

Ernest R. Sears, SEA-AR scientist at Columbia, Mo., has retired after 44 years of outstanding research. Dr. Sears, a cytogeneticist, is known as the father of modern wheat varieties. His theories in plant genetics are recognized by wheat breeders throughout the world. During his long scientific career with USDA and as professor of agronomy at the University of Missouri, Dr. Sears published 100 technical papers and received numerous awards from institutions and organizations throughout the world, including USDA's Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Sears and his wife, Lotti, also a geneticist at the University, plan to spend six months each in Australia and Israel before returning to Columbia as professor emeritus.

Title XIV

As you know, the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 -- known as Title XIV of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 -- does not expire until 1982. However, there are indications that Congress may want to deal with science and education legislation as part of a comprehensive farm bill in 1981.

Secretary Bergland has asked us to forward to him by October 1, SEA's recommendations on changes in Title XIV. I have asked Jim Nielson, Deputy Director, JPE, to coordinate the development of SEA's recommendations to the Department. Other units of SEA have designated representatives to work with him. I have also designated Dr. Nielson as SEA's liaison to NASULGC's Division of Agriculture Task Force on Title XIV.

Agricultural Mechanization Task Force

The first meeting of the newly appointed Agricultural Mechanization Task Force took place July 1 and 2 in Washington. The task force was appointed by the Secretary to recommend criteria and procedures for use by agricultural research administrators and managers in making decisions on the use of Federal funds for agricultural mechanization research. The task force is drawn from the membership of the National Agricultural Research and Extension Users Advisory Board and the Joint Council on Food and Agricultural Sciences.

The task force is co-chaired by Susan Sechler, USDA's Deputy Director of Economics, Policy Analysis and Budget, and Jim Nielson, Deputy Director for Joint Planning and Evaluation, SEA. The task force heard presentations from AR, CR, and JPE concerning the current procedures for funding projects in SEA. The task force is scheduled to complete its work by April 1981.

Energy Security Act

The Energy Security Act, commonly referred to as the "Synfuels Bill," became Public Law 96-294 on June 30, 1980. Provisions with specific application to SEA are contained in Titles II and VII. Among these are:

. Section 252, which makes several amendments to Section 1419 of the 1977 Food and Agriculture Act (PL 95-113), including providing for the production and marketing of alcohol and other forms of biomass energy substitutes for petroleum or natural gas; providing that TVA and other government corporations become eligible for Section 1419 grants; providing additional appropriations and extending Section 1419 through FY 1984.

. Section 255 adds a new Section 1413A to PL 95-113 to set up a biomass energy education and technical assistance program. The Secretary of Agriculture will cooperate with the State directors of cooperative extension, administrators of extension for land grant colleges and universities, State foresters and heads of other Federal departments and agencies to provide education programs for producers of agricultural commodities, wood and wood products. Each State will develop an annual biomass energy educational and technical assistance plan which must be approved by the Secretary of Agriculture. The plan will be developed by the State director of cooperative extension. In the States which have 1890 institutions, the plan will be jointly developed by the administrative heads of extension and the State extension director. The National Research and Extension Users Advisory Board will review and make recommendations on these new Section 1413A programs. Annual appropriations of \$10 million are authorized to carry out this program from FY 1981 through FY 1984.

. The new law requires the Secretary to coordinate certain research and extension programs with the Department of Energy. Amendments are made to the Bankhead-Jones Act, the Forest Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act and the Smith-Lever Act to include energy work in their activities.

. Under Title VII, an Acid Precipitation Task Force chaired by NOAA, USDA and EPA is established to implement a 10-year comprehensive program. The Task Force is authorized \$5 million for FY 1981 with a maximum of \$50 million available for the 10-year program, subject to annual authorizations and appropriations.

Aquaculture Tour

On June 17, 18, and 19, Mary Nell Greenwood (Administrator, SEA-EXT), Terry Kinney (Administrator, SEA-AR), Walter Thomas (Administrator, SEA-CR), Bille Hougart (USDA Aquaculture Coordinator and Acting Assistant Director, SEA-Special Programs), Ken Baskette (Associate Administrator for Policy, Farmers Home Administration) and I visited Auburn University, Mississippi State University and Louisiana State University to learn more about the research and extension efforts now underway in aquaculture.

I was pleased to see firsthand the enthusiasm and intensity with which aquaculture research and education work is being carried out at these institutions. The opportunities to assist the catfish and crawfish industries are many. We will be looking for ways to increase our involvement to that end.

Status Report on SEA Grant Programs

Peer panels have met and recommended proposals to be funded for all authorized SEA grant programs.

The following table represents program area, number and dollar amounts of grants awarded as of June 27, 1980:

Special Research Grants

<u>Program Area</u>	<u>No. of Grants</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Soybean research	6	\$ 485,000
Energy research	20	1,693,364
Animal health	37	3,901,873
Alcohol fuels research (PL 95-113) - (Section 1419)	5	485,000

All of the soybean and alcohol fuels research grants have been awarded. Some energy and animal health grants are in process and should be awarded no later than July 15, 1980.

Competitive Research Grants

<u>Program Area</u>	<u>No. of Grants</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Biological nitrogen fixation	Being processed	\$
Photosynthesis	Being processed	
Genetic mechanisms	5	352,650
Biological stress on plants	17	930,000
Human nutrition	Being processed	

Target date for completing all of these awards is September 1, 1980.

No awards have been made yet for the Native Latex Research or the Solar Energy Systems for Agriculture programs. The Solar peer panel met during the week of June 9, 1980 and the Native Latex panel the week of June 23, 1980. These awards will be made shortly.

Joint Council and Users Advisory Board

The Joint Council and the Users Advisory Board will hold their annual joint meeting on July 16, 1980, in Washington, D.C., to discuss the Board's recent recommendations on allocations of responsibilities and levels of funding for research and extension programs and the Joint Council's views as to how and to what extent program providers can respond. Congressman George E. Brown, Jr. (D-CA), will address the groups at a joint dinner on July 15. A. R. Chamberlain, President of Colorado State University and Chairman of the Board of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges will speak to the groups on July 16.

The Users Advisory Board will hold its individual meeting on July 14 and 15 to discuss plans for its October report to the Secretary and to review ESCS research and information programs with Administrator Kenneth Farrell.

The Joint Council will hold its meeting on July 17 to consider coordination of energy programs, evaluation of science and education programs, its research facilities study report and its national planning structure.

All meetings are open to the public. Contact persons are: James M. Meyers, Executive Secretary UAB, Rm. 351-A, Administration Building, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250, Tel. (202) 447-3684; Susan G. Schram, Executive Secretary, JC, Rm. 351-A, Administration Building, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250, Tel. (202) 447-6651.

Two New Studies Available

Graduates of Higher Education in the Food and Agricultural Sciences: An Analysis of Supply/Demand Relationships

The purpose of this study is three-fold:

- It identifies current and projected supplies of graduates of higher education who are qualified for employment in food and agricultural positions.

- It analyzes the current and projected employment demand for higher education graduates in the food and agricultural sciences.

- It interprets supply and demand relationships to determine whether higher education is producing enough graduates to satisfy the needs of the labor force in food and agricultural sciences.

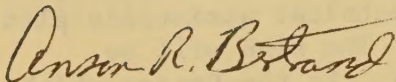
The study documents shortages of students pursuing advanced degrees across virtually the full spectrum of food and agricultural science disciplines. The most critical areas include agricultural business and management, agricultural engineering, animal sciences, food sciences, forest engineering, forest product utilization, plant sciences, soil sciences, and select specialties in veterinary medicine. Copies of this study can be obtained from SEA, Publications Distribution and Requests, Room 6005-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Report and Recommendations on Organic Farming

This comprehensive report was produced by a study team composed of government, industry and university scientists. Robert I. Papendick, SEA soil scientist, Land Management and Water Conservation Research Laboratory, Pullman, Wash., led the study team. On-site case studies of 69 organic farms in 23 states were conducted, as well as two study tours of organic farms and research institutes in Europe and Japan, extensive literature reviews, and interviews and correspondence with knowledgeable practitioners. To serve as a focus for increased emphasis on organic farming within USDA, Garth Youngberg, SEA/JPE, has been appointed organic resources coordinator. Copies of this study can be obtained from SEA, Publications Distribution and Requests, Room 6005-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Animal Agriculture Conference

The Conference on Animal Agriculture, held at Boyne Mountain, Michigan on May 4 - 10, brought together 200 scientists, educators, food producers, consumer advocates, and public policymakers to discuss the role of animal products in meeting human needs in the 21st century. This conference report will be very valuable as we work with our publics and our cooperators to establish priorities and do the joint planning that is necessary for the most effective use of our resources. Virgil Hays, Chairman of the Department of Animal Science, University of Kentucky, and Harold Hafs, Chairman of the Department of Dairy Science, Michigan State University, were among those who helped organize the conference. Dr. Hays and Dr. Hafs joined me this week in meeting with Deputy Secretary Jim Williams to discuss the results of the conference.



ANSON R. BERTRAND
Director
Science and Education

